

Eric replied, “I guess I will never understand this about us men. We complain about a woman that dogs us out and isn’t worth a nickel, but we will have a dime piece in our hands and want to trade it in for two nickels, knowing that although the money is equal, a dime and nickel has a different value worth. Maybe one day when we as people learn to appreciate one another again, the good people will find happiness. As you probably can see by the words I am saying, I’ve been hurt before too.”

Paula, now looked a little puzzled, “Who said I’ve been hurt? I just acknowledge that your assumption was on the right track. Also just to let you know, I had began to think like that too, that one day the good people would find happiness. Then I realized after going through so much unnecessary mess that the good people have already found happiness, but it’s inside. So when you fill your insides with so much trash, you know everybody else’s drama, then you tend to cover up the happiness. See happiness is like the sun, it shines bright and the drama, the trash, it’s all dirty, and dirt is a dark color. After so much darkness covers up the light, then the darkness seems to take over, but all we need to do is to remove just a little bit of that dirt and the rays of the light will shine through. I found out that light is only hidden by darkness, it’s not gone, but when there is light, the darkness is no longer there. Nothing can hide when the lights are on, so there is no place for darkness to be.” As Paula spoke she realized that she was going through her own healing process, this was part of own self-redemption.

In total amazement of how eloquently she expressed her perception, Eric could picture the scene as she spoke. He could see his own life and all of the chaos that he allowed to interfere with his success. Now coming to the same understanding that Paula had arrived to, he accepted her theory that as long as you had the light, it never leaves, it just needs to have some of the junk removed so it can breathe again. Standing before Paula as if he was a little kid he said, “You know if I would’ve just had one person to stand by my side throughout my life that would’ve been enough for me to take another route than the one I chose. At one time I believed in myself, but after so long of being the only one who believes in something you begin to question if you are wrong or if you are the one with the issue. You must be very strong to stand your ground and keep fighting to let that light shine again. See, I wasn’t that fortunate. I just went to the other side, because at least I didn’t feel like I was alone.

Then after being there for so long, although several people surrounded me, I was still different. I found out that I was just as alone as I had been before. So why did I give in to their way of life instead of just hanging on and being me? The only answer I could come up with was that I must have been weak.”

Paula responded in a soft voice, “Until this moment I would have agreed with you. I don’t consider this person weak, in this case you; you may have never been taught how to be strong and you didn’t understand that although you knew you could be strong, you didn’t know how. I think we all equate strength to several different things. When one of those factors change or no longer exists, the weight on the scale is different. So now the two sides are uneven and the scale seems to swing up and down. When this happens we seem to panic. When the hands on the scale are even we have limited worries, because there is a balance. When the balance is gone, if you haven’t been taught, haven’t been shown how to find something else within yourself to use to even the scale back out, we seem to float through life like the hands on the scale that swing up and down.”

Eric replied with a low sigh, “Whooooohhh, I wish I would’ve met you before today. My life could’ve been different.” Paula responded, “I believe everything happens for a reason and before today, I may not have given you the same analogy, then I would’ve been of no use to you. So maybe I went through what I went through this week, because I was going to meet you today. Although it may appear that I have it all together, remember things are not always as they seem, I have issues too.” He looked at his watch and said, “I cannot believe we have been standing here talking for almost forty five minutes. I apologize for holding you up, but I thank you for taking the time to talk to me. I cannot remember the last time I had a real conversation, now that I am thinking about it, I don’t believe I have ever had a real conversation, just talking about nothing. Well, I’ll let you pay for your items and I hope I will see you again. Goodbye.” Paula smiled and said, “Goodbye, be safe.”

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